

UNIT 20: BLANKET ISLAND

MANAGEMENT INTENT

Management of state lands will emphasize fish and wildlife habitat and harvest and recreation values. There are many anadromous stream outlets and productive habitat for otter, seabirds, and marine mammals in the unit. Because of proximity to Hydaburg, fish and wildlife resources are intensely used for various subsistence activities.

Sites for support facilities for upland resources development will be provided at strategic locations. A concentration of resource transfer and support facilities has been developed along the north side of Saltery Point. Developments include ship mooring, a dock, and log storage, with a second log storage area across Sukkwan Strait in the Crab Trap Cove area. These facilities are within the Saltery Point-Crab Trap Cove Area Meriting Special Attention (AMSA) designated in the Hydaburg Coastal Management Program. This AMSA was designated because of its importance for subsistence use of salmon, crab, clams, and cockles, and for its recreational values. The AMSA also gives special recognition to the substantial industrial developments, both existing and planned. Management of state tidelands within the AMSA will be consistent with the management plan and policies outlined in the Hydaburg Coastal Management Program.

Habitat is designated a secondary use in some important fish and wildlife habitat or harvest areas (Hc). This will be considered in siting and managing all activities directly related to shore-attached facilities where there are primary designations for forestry and mining. Appropriate siting or operating stipulations (which may include timing restrictions) will be considered to mitigate negative impacts on the habitat resources and to meet the management intent for this unit. Even where habitat is designated a secondary use in important fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas (Hc), it will be managed as a primary use when reviewing proposals for uses that are not directly related to or necessary for the operation of a shore-attached facility where there is a primary designation of forestry or mining. Important habitat resources near Saltery Point are subsistence and commercial harvest areas for clams, Dungeness crab, and salmon, and waterfowl and seabird concentration areas. There are also waterfowl and seabird concentration areas near the northeast end of Blanket Island. Land managers should check the fish and wildlife habitat maps for specific locations.

Proposed resource development support facilities include a log storage site between the north end of Blanket Island and Sukkwan Island, and potential A-frame breakouts at various sites along both sides of Sukkwan Strait and outside of Blanket Island. Access for future mineral exploration and development will be accommodated on the northeast shore of Sukkwan Island.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY USES

Refer to the land use designation map for primary and secondary uses and fish and wildlife ratings.

PROHIBITED USES

- Mineral location in mapped crucial fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas.
- Filling state tide and submerged lands for residential purposes.
- Floathomes.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Refer to Chapter 2 for guidelines common to this and all management units. The following guidelines apply to this specific unit.

- **Developed Recreation Facilities in Crucial Habitat and Harvest Areas.** Based on available information, developed recreation facilities are initially determined incompatible within mapped crucial fish and wildlife areas. A specific proposal for a developed recreation facility may be considered for compatibility based on its design or on new habitat information.
- **Siting in High Visual Sensitivity Areas.** Siting decisions for A-frame breakout points should consider the high visual sensitivity of Sukkwan Strait because of its proximity to Hydaburg and the volume of boat traffic through the area.
- **Hydaburg Involvement within AMSA.** The City of Hydaburg will be involved in a review of all proposed actions within the Area Meriting Special Attention. Copies of all pertinent applications and notices will be sent to the city during the review process.
- **Limited Logging Support Facilities.** Log storage is the only resource development support facility to be sited between the northwest end of Blanket island and Sukkwan Island.
- **Anchorage.** Use of anchorages depicted on the land use designation map will not be precluded.

NOTES

- An archaeological/historic site near Saltery Point is identified in the Hydaburg Coastal Management Program.

FISH AND WILDLIFE INFORMATION

Ten anadromous fish stream outlets are located in the unit. Saltery Creek is an important contributor to the salmon stocks of the area, with a peak escapement of 39,000 pink salmon.

The area between Blanket Island and Sukkwan Island is shallow, productive, and poorly flushed. Abalone subsistence harvest occurs along both shores of lower Sukkwan Strait. The small islands provide productive rocky habitats for otter, seabirds, and marine mammals.